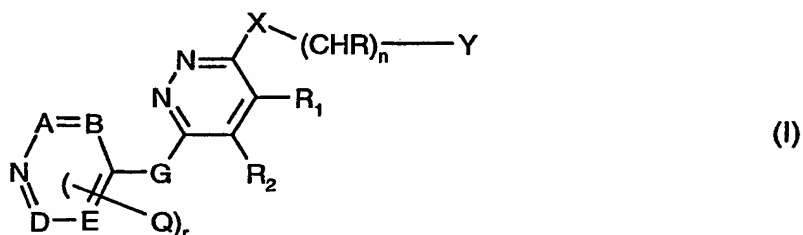


What is claimed

1. A method of treating mesothelioma comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof.
2. Method according to claim 1 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative of formula I



wherein

r is 0 to 2,

n is 0 to 2,

m is 0 to 4,

R₁ and R₂ (i) are lower alkyl or

(ii) together form a bridge in subformula I*



the binding being achieved via the two terminal carbon atoms, or

(iii) together form a bridge in subformula I**



wherein one or two of the ring members T₁, T₂, T₃ and T₄ are nitrogen, and the others are in each case CH, and the binding is achieved via T₁ and T₄;

A, B, D, and E are, independently of one another, N or CH, with the stipulation that not

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more than 2 of these radicals are N;

G is lower alkylene, lower alkylene substituted by acyloxy or hydroxy, -CH₂-O-, -CH₂-S-, -CH₂-NH-, oxa (-O-), thia (-S-), or imino (-NH-);

Q is lower alkyl;

R is H or lower alkyl;

X is imino, oxa, or thia;

Y is unsubstituted or substituted aryl, pyridyl, or unsubstituted or substituted cycloalkyl; and

Z is amino, mono- or disubstituted amino, halogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, hydroxy, etherified or esterified hydroxy, nitro, cyano, carboxy, esterified carboxy, alkanoyl, carbamoyl, N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted carbamoyl, amidino, guanidino, mercapto, sulfo, phenylthio, phenyl-lower alkylthio, alkylphenylthio, phenylsulfonyl, phenyl-lower alkylsulfinyl or alkylphenylsulfinyl, substituents Z being the same or different from one another if more than 1 radical Z is present;

and wherein the bonds characterized, if present, by a wavy line are either single or double bonds;

or an N-oxide of the defined compound, wherein 1 or more N atoms carry an oxygen atom, or the salt of such compound having at least one salt-forming group, to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof.

3. Method of claim 2 wherein the 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative of formula I is 1-(4-chloroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine.
4. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the disease is selected from pleural mesothelioma, peritoneal mesothelioma, pericardial mesothelioma, epithelial mesothelioma, sarcomatous mesothelioma and biphasic mesothelioma.
5. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the warm-blooded animal is a human.
6. Method according to claim 5 which comprises administering 1-(4-chloroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the patient on a once daily schedule at a dose in the range from 1000 mg/day to 1400 mg/day.

7. Method according to claim 6 wherein the once daily dose is 1200 mg/day to 1300 mg/day.
8. Method according to claim 6 wherein the once daily dose is 1250 mg/day.
9. A method of treating mesothelioma comprising administering a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative in an amount which is therapeutically effective against mesothelioma to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof in combination with surgery, in particular pleurectomy/decortication, pneumonectomy, extrapleural pneumonectomy, and/or radiation therapy, in particular external radiation therapy or internal radiation therapy,
10. A commercial package comprising a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative together with instructions for use thereof in the treatment of mesothelioma.
11. Use of a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of mesothelioma.
12. Use according to claim 11, wherein the 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative is 1-(4-chloroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine or 1-(4-chloroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine in free form or in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.
13. Use according to claim 12, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is the succinate salt of the 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative.